Ganesan, Shri R. *alias* Misa R. Ganesan
Gautam, Shri Sangh Priya
Gurupada Swamy, Shri M. S.
Jain, Dr. Jinendra Kumar
Jaiswal, Shri Anant Ram
Kaldate, Dr. Bapu
Kenia, Kumari Chandrika Premji
Mahajan, Shri Pramod
Malaviya, Shri Satya Prakesh
Maran, Shri Murasoli
Mathur, Shri Jagdish Prasad
Mohanty, Shri Sarada
Naik, Shri R. S.
Padmanabham, Shri Mentay
Patil, Shri Vishwasrao Ramrao
Rahman, Shri Mohd. Khaleelur
Rao, Shri Moturu Hanumantha
Reddy, Dr. G. Vijaya Mohan
Saqhy, Shri T. A. Mohammed
Sen, Shri Ashis
Sen, Shri Sukomal
Shah, Shri Viren J.
Singh, Sh. Digvijay
Singh, Shri Ram Awadhesh
Singh, Shri Shankar Dayal
Sinha, Shrimati Kamla
Trivedi, Shri Dineshbhai
Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
Venkatraman, Shri Tindivanam G.

The motion was adopted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raising of Funds for early completion of the Konkan Railway

*241. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have accepted the suggestion of the Central Government to raise funds for the early completion of the Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the total amount they have offered to the Railways for the purpose; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government to that offer ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) For the early completion of the Konkan Railway Project, i.e., a BG railway line from Roha to Mangalore, the State Governments of Maharashtra Karnataka, Goa and Kerala have been requested for equity participation in the proposed Corporation/Authority for construction of this line. The share of Government of Maharashtra has been indicated as Rs. 55 crores. No firm commitment has been received from the State Government.

Shortage of fertilisers

*242. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that for the coming Kharif season there is likelihood of acute shortage of certain fertilisers like DAP as the import orders were not issued in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these fertilisers would arrive late at the ports on the Southern part of the country and therefore the entire northern belt would face crisis of the supply of these fertilisers; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) No, sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Fertilisers vessels are nominated keeping in view the States where the fertiliser is required. There is no likelihood of any shortage of DAP in the Northern States.

भागलपुर और बरारी के बीच बंद पडी रेल लाइन

*243. श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भागलपुर और बरारी के बीच रेल लाइन बंद पड़ी है, यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि बरारी को बाहपुर से जोड़ने वाली रेलवे स्टीमर सेवा भी बंद है, यदि हां, तो कितनी अवधि तक यह बंद रहेगी ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीज): (क) जी हां। यह आठ किलोमीटर लम्बा मीटर लाइन का एक अलग-थलग पड़ा अलाभप्रद खंड था।

(ख) बरारी तथा थाना बीहपुर को जोड़ने वाली रेलवे स्टीमर सेवाएं जुलाई 1986 में स्थायी रूप से बंद कर दी गई थीं।

National Commission on bonded labour

*244. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress made for the release and rehabilitation of bonded labour under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act has been dismal so for;

(b) whether the Bonded Labour liberation Front has proposed the setting up of a National Commission on Bonded labour.

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up the same; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard together with the composition and the temrs of reference thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the responsibility of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour rests with the State Governments. According to the information made available by various State Governments, 2,42,618 bonded labour had been identified and released, out of which 2,10,091 had been rehabilitated till 31st March, 1989. The Bonded Labour Liberation Front has recently proposed setting up of a National Commission on Bonded Labour. The proposal is being examined by the Government.

National Research Centre for Arid Horticulture at Cuddapah

*245. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Research Centre for Arid Horticulture at Cuddapah in Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh which is having Arid Climatic conditions; and

(b) if so, the details tcereof; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Task Force constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1987 to select a site for the Centre has not recommended Cuddapah, as in Andhra Praeesh only about 6.88 per cent of the area falls under the arid zone and it also suffers from severe climatic shifts from semi-arid to arid conditions.

Payment of Provident Fund dues to the contract labour

*246. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Public Sector Undertakings to deduct provident fund amount from the wages of labour/employees employed through contract;

(b) if so, whether these dues are paid to the contract labour at their place of work; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The provident fund contribution of the employees will be credited to their individual provident fund accounts and is to paid to them at the time of their retirement, resignation etc. at the address indicated by them.

Cases pending under the working Journalists Act

*247. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases under the Working Journalists Act are